



AUSTRALIA

While the main mission of the Australian Education Office (AEO) is to provide information on tertiary educational opportunities in Australia, the AEO also has a mission to provide for the exchange of academics and scholars between Australia, the United States, and Canada. The AEO works with the various branches within the Embassy to promote all educational linkages.

1. Student Exchanges – The AEO has listings of universities in Australia and the exchange programs they have with U.S. and Canadian institutions. It also lists on its website high school exchange programs currently running programs to Australia.
2. Teacher Exchanges – Exchanges are done on an individual state-to-state basis and there is little interaction between the Embassy and candidates. The AEO receives requests from U.S.-based teachers and directs them to appropriate websites.
3. Providing Learning Materials to US. Schools – The Department of Foreign Affairs and the AEO worked together to create a high school lesson plan on Australian History. Available for free, it assists teachers integrate a lesson on Australian history as they teach world history. In addition, the Embassy of Australia Public Affairs Branch fields requests from the public on obtaining information on Australia. They have a publication, *Tell Me About Australia*, specifically created for the primary/secondary education market. This publication and others are available through a company called “Roots and Wings.”
4. Professional Development Opportunities – The AEO runs Familiarization Tours of Australian universities for study abroad advisors and academics in any field to further their knowledge of the Australian education system.
5. Adopt-a-School – The Embassy currently runs an Adopt-a-School program with the support of Mrs. Michael Thawley, the wife of the Ambassador and an active participant. Sessions about Australia are presented and the culmination of the program is having DC school students present what they have learned to Embassy staff at a presentation day at the Embassy. The Embassy also works with the Washington Workshop Foundation as is the host for one or two group visits a year.
6. Joint Research – The Embassy of Australia, working with organizations such as the Australian New Zealand Studies Center at Georgetown, works to facilitate the endeavors of Fulbright Scholars. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also sponsors a Fulbright Scholar from Australia.
7. Outreach Programs – Through the Museum Magnet Program, the Cultural Affairs Branch facilitated links for museum-related distance education. Participating entities included

Education Queensland, The Queensland Museum, The Smithsonian Institute, and other distance education links in the United States.

In addition, the Public Affairs Branch, the Cultural Affairs Branch, and various other branches in the Embassy make available internships to students. The Cultural Affairs Branch and the AEO also support the Australian Universities at an annual International Educators Conference.

Additional information can be found at the Embassy of Australia's website, <http://www.austemb.org>, or at the Australian Education Office (AEO) website, <http://www.austudies.org/aeo>.

Contact:

Carri (Kendrick) Orrison
Manager, Information Services and Institutional Relations
Australian Education Office
1601 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036
Tel: (202) 332-8285
Fax: (202) 332-8304
Email: carri@austudies.org
URL: <http://www.austudies.org/aeo>